



August 4, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Subject: Update of Federal Relief Funds and Preliminary Recovery Plan Costs

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Board an update of COVID-19 Federal Relief Funds, which we have applied for and the status of the grant awards. As previously outlined in my May 5, 2020 memo to you, the CARES Act provided multiple avenues of federal relief funds. The table below summarizes each grant applied for to date. We have received notice of grant award for four grants, these grants will be submitted to the Board for formal acceptance at an August Board meeting.

These grant funds, together with the COVID-19 contingency reserve approved by the Board and repurposing of funds in other area will cover the estimated costs to implement the Recovery Plan. Staff are reviewing cost estimates and will update estimates following the outcome of the August 6, 2020 Board meeting. Once completed, we will provide the expenditure plan to the Board.

The largest grant award is the CARES-Technology Grant at \$6.56 million. This grant enables us to nearly achieve a 1:1 student to device ratio for all grades preK to 12. As was shared during the July 16, 2020 Board meeting, this grant allows us to increase the number of computers purchased and reduces the need to use the \$2.5 million approved by the Board on July 16, 2020. Instead of \$2.5 million, only \$490,000 will be needed from the General Fund to purchase the remaining 1,277 devices necessary to achieve a 1:1 ratio for all grades and retain a one percent reserve of computers for replacement. In addition, the CARES-Tutoring Grant of \$2.26 million will fund many of the other instruction costs to support tutoring.

A press release will be prepared to share these grant announcements and pending grant applications with the community as we have received questions regarding the use of CARES Act funds.

Grant Name	Applied for Use of Grant	Maximum Grant Award Allotted to Howard County	Amount of Grant Award (HCPSS)	Amount of Grant Award (Non-Publics)	Total Grant Award
Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund (ESSER)	Applied to help offset the cost 10,805 of the 14,000 Chromebooks purchased in March	\$4,236,699	\$4,141,024	\$95,675	\$4,236,699

<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Applied for Use of Grant</b>	<b>Maximum Grant Award Allotted to Howard County</b>	<b>Amount of Grant Award (HCPSS)</b>	<b>Amount of Grant Award (Non-Publics)</b>	<b>Total Grant Award</b>
Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)	Applied to offset the cost of 938 of the 14,000 Chromebooks purchased in March	\$374,492	\$359,512	\$14,980	\$374,492
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act-Technology Grant	HCPSS needs an additional 18,400 Chromebooks to achieve a 1:1 ratio for all grades preK to 12. Applied for the purchase of an additional 17,123 Chromebooks, the maximum amount supported by the grant. The remaining 1,277 computers needed will be funded from the amount previously approved by the Board.	\$6,562,633	\$6,562,633	NA	\$6,562,633
CARES-Tutoring Grant	Applied for the focusMATH tutoring program, an intensive, K-6 math intervention program designed to work with any math program. focusMATH identifies at-risk students early and accelerates their learning with instruction that is intensive, balanced, and individualized.	\$2,265,001	\$2,265,001	NA	\$2,265,001
GEER-Innovative Program Grant	An HCPSS program focusing on families of underperforming and at-risk students, especially those who receive Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMS), who are experiencing homelessness, and/or who have not shown high levels of engagement under the spring and summer of Continuity of Learning models due to language, technology, and other challenges that impact learning. HCPSS will maximize positive instructional outcomes for approximately 2,500 of these students by providing additional supports through at-home learning using online resources.	\$427,000	Pending	Pending	Pending
Broadband for Underserved Populations	The grant supports school districts to assist in providing broadband service to unserved students (through December 2020), based on eligibility criteria for urban and rural households. For urban households, we applied for 837 for broadband service and 843 for cellular hotspots. For rural households, we applied for 87 cellular hotspots.	\$213,649	Pending	Pending	Pending
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$13,968,819</b>	<b>\$13,328,170</b>	<b>\$110,655</b>	<b>\$13,438,825</b>

If you have any questions, please contact Jahantab Siddiqui, Chief Administrative Officer.

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Board of Education Office